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TDD F10-8709-11 I

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 26, 1987

TO: John Osborn, FIT-RPO, USEPA, Region X

THRU: for David Buecker, FIT-OM, E&E, Seattle DWB

FROM: Stephen Livingston, FIT-SM, E&E, Seattle SHL

SUBJ: Final Preliminary Assessment Report
Ventron Inc., Division of Thiokol
Elma, Washington

REF: TDD F10-8709-11

CC: William Glasser, HWD-SM, USEPA, Region X
Jeffrey Villnow, FIT-PM, E&E, Seattle
Thomas Tobin, E&E, Seattle (memo only)

Transmitted herewith are two (2) sets of revised pages for the Ventron Inc., Division of Thiokol Preliminary Assessment Report incorporating EPA comments. This report will be considered final.

SL:rls

Enclosures

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recycled paper

Arlington, Oregon (1,4). However, by 1985, Ventron had removed the source of methanol/lithium chloride contamination by coating the process related iron piping with teflon (2). Consequently, the previously contaminated waste no longer required disposal and was recycled in the system (2). As a result, Ventron began formal closure for their hazardous waste storage facility with the intent of mitigating their hazardous waste status.

The reactors in which the sodium borohydride is formulated periodically require cleaning, prior to 1981, which generated sodium hydride (1). The sodium hydride was treated in the following manner. When the weather was dry, the sodium hydride solid was spread on a concrete pad and hydrolized to form a strong caustic which was then neutralized in the wastewater treatment system and handled as a non-hazardous waste (1). However, after 1981, no sodium hydride was generated due to process improvements which allowed for the internal recycling of the sodium hydride (5).

According to Paul Stasch with the Southwest Regional Office of the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology); Ventron Inc. no longer requires regulation, is a clean facility, and has no need of further investigation (3).

- Physical Environment - Ventron Inc. is situated in the floodplain of the Chehalis River. Small lakes, creeks, marshes, and swamps abound in this area (5). The Chehalis River Basin is bordered by low hills of Tertiary bedrock (6). The basin itself is composed mainly of alluvial deposits of unconsolidated and interbedded river-laid silts, sands, and gravels (6). Between the basin and the low hills is an area of terrace deposits of Vashon Drift consisting mainly of coarse sands and gravels with some interbeds of clay (6). Within three miles of Ventron Inc., a population of less than 4,000 people acquire their drinking water from shallow wells between 20 and 100 feet below the surface in an aquifer mostly composed of sands and gravels (7). The upper aquifer, from which all wells in the vicinity of this site draw their water, ranges from approximately 5 feet to 100 feet below the surface (6). A lower aquifer is present and extends below the 100 foot depth (6). The net annual precipitation in this area amounts to approximately 64 inches (8).

- Waste Types, Quantities, and Characteristics - Currently, no hazardous wastes are reportedly being generated by Ventron, Inc. (5). All facility wastewater (process and storm) converge in two treatment tanks for the removal of oil and for neutralization before entering the Elma Sewage Treatment Plant (1).

REFERENCES

1. USEPA Region X Consolidated RCRA Site File.

2. Personal Communication, John Durrell (206) 482-4350, Plant Manager, Ventron Inc., September 15, 1987.

3. Personal Communication, Paul Stasch (206) 586-2713, Southwest Regional Office, WDOE, September 14, 1987.

4. Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials, Sixth Edition, N. Irving Sax, 1984.

5. Personal Communication, Bob Holman (206) 482-4350, Technical Manager, Ventron Inc., October 6, 1987.

6. U.S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangle Maps, Elma (1986), South Elma (1981).

7. State of Washington - Water Supply Bulletin No. 30, Geology and Ground Water Resources of the Lower Chehalis Valley and Adjacent Areas, Paul A. Eddy, 1966.

8. Personal Communication, Mr. Hamilton (206) 482-2212, Elma City Water, September 14, 1987.

9. Climatic Atlas of the United States, 1968.